

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING REFLECTIVE PAVEMENT MARKER

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and a method are provided for fabricating a one-piece, polymeric raised reflective pavement marker.

The apparatus includes a polished cavity segment which have an inclined angular disposition with respect to the mold base horizontal and vertical surfaces; and a core segment having the same inclined disposition correspondingly to the cavity segment, said core segment having at least the top portions polished which can be integrally formed including the electroformed molding used for embossing a precision pattern of prismatic or micro- prismatic cube corner reflective elements.

In another preferred apparatus, the entire upper, inclined portion of the core can be made of two parts, a body segment and a polished electroformed segment that is firmly mounted and fixed onto a designated raised regions of the core's body segment. The embossing process and the subsequent forming of said monolithically made one-piece reflective marker is based on accurately positioning the cavity and core segments of said apparatus within a base to be mounted in an injection molding machine. The angular position of the core segments allows integrally forming of the inclined hollow cavities within the pavement marker structural body; thereby facilitate the draft needed to eject the pavement markers.